

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A model for accessing data in an identity-centric manner. An identity may be a user, a group of users, or an organization. Instead of data being maintained on an application-by-application basis, the data associated with a particular identity is stored by one or more data services accessible by many applications. The data is stored in accordance with a schema that is recognized by a number of different applications and the data service. When a user is to perform an operation on the identity's data, the corresponding application generates a message that has a structure that is recognized by the data service. The message represents a request to perform an operation on the data structure corresponding to the identity. The data service receives and interprets the message. If authorized, the data service then performs the operation.

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